

UNIT 17

QUESTION TIME - INTERROGATIVES

As in English, questions in Latin can be asked in such a way as to anticipate the expected answer. If we said, for example ‘It is you, isn’t it?’ , or ‘You will come, won’t you?’ , we would require ‘Yes’ for an answer, whereas questions like ‘You didn’t do that, did you?’ or ‘surely you didn’t do that?’ invite a negative response. Latin has its own ways of expressing such questions, and these are explained below :

17.1 Anticipating ‘Yes’

If the questioner expects a reply in the affirmative, the question is introduced by *nonne* :

<i>nonne hic est fabri filius?</i>	is not this the carpenter’s son?
<i>nonne mater ejus dicitur Maria?</i>	is not His mother called Mary?
<i>nonne decem mundati sunt?</i>	were not ten made clean?

17.2 Taking No for an answer

If the questioner expects a negative response, the question is introduced by *numquid* or, less commonly *num* :

<i>num vere paritura sum anus?</i> (Sarah to the Angel)	am I, an old woman, really going to give birth?
<i>numquid ego Judaeus sum?</i> (Pilate)	Am I a Jew?

<i>Numquid omnes apostoli?</i>	Are all apostles?
<i>numquid omnes doctores?</i>	Are all prophets? Are all
<i>numquid omnes gratiam habent curationem?</i>	doctors? Are all workers of miracles? Have
<i>numquid omnes linqvis loquuntur?</i>	all the grace of healing? Do all speak with
<i>numquid omnes interpretantur?</i>	tongues? Do all interpret?

In Luke, 6, 39 both positive and negative forms are used with different expected outcomes :

<i>Numquid potest caecus caecum ducere ? Nonne ambo in foveam cadunt?</i>	Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the pit?
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Vocabulary

<i>faber, fabri</i> - smith, carpenter	<i>anus, -us</i> - an old woman
<i>paritura</i> (fut. participle) - about to give birth	<i>fovea, -ae</i> - pit
<i>hortus, -i</i> - garden	<i>caecus, i-</i> - a blind man
<i>fili nuptiarum</i> - attendants at a wedding	<i>sponsus, -i</i> - bridegroom
<i>vestis nuptialis</i> - wedding garment	<i>piger, -gra, -grum</i> - lazy, idle
<i>imago, -inis</i> - image, likeness	<i>superscriptio, -ionis</i> - inscription
<i>participatio, -ionis</i> - partaking	<i>desertum, -i</i> - desert, wilderness
<i>infans, antis</i> - child	<i>quamdiu</i> - as long as
<i>licet</i> - it is lawful	<i>in sabbatis</i> - on the Sabbath days
<i>census, -us</i> - tribute	<i>doctor, -oris</i> - doctor
<i>curatio, -ionis</i> - healing	<i>interpretor, -ari</i> (1) - to explain, interpret

Exercise 1 Decide whether the answer to each of these questions is ‘yes’ or ‘no’ and precede them with *nonne* or *numquid*

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|--|---|
| 1. _____ voluntatis meae mors impii ? | Is it My will that a sinner should die? |
| 2. _____ oblivisci potest mulier infantem suum? | Can a woman forget her own child? |
| 3. _____ hic est qui sedebat et mendicabat ? | Is not this he that sat and begged? |
| 4. _____ Deus ego sum, ut occidere possim et
vivificare? | Am I God, to be able to kill and give life?
(King of Israel) |
| 5. _____ ego sum, Domine ? | It is not I, is it, Lord? |
| 6. _____ ego te vidi cum illo in horto ? | Did not I see thee with Him in the garden? |
| 7. _____ et publicani hoc faciunt ? | Do not also the Publicans do as much? |
| 8. _____ poterit Deus parare mensam in deserto ? | Will God be able to prepare a table in the
desert? (implying disbelief) |
| 9. _____ possunt filii nuptiarum, quamdiu sponsus
cum illis est, jejunare : | Surely the bridegroom's attendants cannot fast
while the bridegroom is with them? |
| 10. Calix benedictionis cui benedicimus, _____
communicatio Sanguinis Christi est ? et panis, quem
frangimus, _____ participatio Corporis Domini
est? | The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not
the communion of the Blood of Christ? and the
bread which we break, is it not the partaking of
the Body of the Lord? |

17.3 Questions using voice inflection

It sometimes happens that questions are asked without any introductory word simply by the questioner raising his voice at the end of a statement, as in :

<i>Tu es Rex Judaeorum ?</i>	Art Thou the King of the Jews?
<i>Simon, dormis?</i>	Simon, sleepest thou?
<i>Tu es filius meus Esau?</i>	Art thou my son Esau?
<i>Tu credis in Filium Dei?</i>	Dost thou believe in the Son of God?

17.4 Double Questions

Sometimes questions come in two parts, as when the questioner offers two alternatives along the lines of 'either - or'. In Latin these two parts of the question are joined by **an** :

<i>Interrogo vos, si licet sabbatis benefacere, an male : animam salvam facere an perdere?</i>	I ask you, if it is lawful on the sabbath days to do good or to do evil : to save life, or to destroy?
<i>A temetipso hoc dicis, an alii dixerunt tibi de me?</i>	Sayest thou this thing of thyself, or have others told it thee of Me?
<i>Licet census dare annon?</i>	Is it lawful to give tribute to Caesar or not?
<i>Tu es, qui venturus es, an alium expectamus ?</i>	Art Thou He that is to come, or look we for another ?

Vocabulary

<i>salvum facere</i> - to make safe, save	<i>licet</i> - it is lawful, allowed
<i>census, -us</i> - tribute	

17.5 Twenty Questions

Here are all the interrogative words you will need to know :

CUR?	why?	CUJUS?	whose?
QUARE?	why? (most commonly)	QUANDO?	when?
QUID?	why?	QUOMODO?	how? by what means?

QUID?	what?	QUOT?	how many?
QUIS?	who?	QUOTIES	how many times?
QUEM?	whom?	QUALIS?	what kind?
QUO?	where to? whither?	QUANTUS, -A, -UM?	how much? (Pl. how many?)
QUOUSQUE?	to what point? how long?	UBI?	where?
A QUO?	by, from whom?	UNDE?	where from? whence?
CUI?	to whom?	USQUEQUO?	to what point? how long?

Exercise 2 Fill in the blanks with the appropriate question word :

<i>quantum?</i>	<i>unde?</i>	<i>quis?</i>	<i>cujus?</i>	<i>quare?</i>	<i>ubi?</i>
<i>quid?</i>	<i>quando?</i>	<i>quot?</i>	<i>usquoque?</i>	<i>quomodo?</i>	<i>quo?</i>

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. _____ panes habetis? | <u>How many</u> loaves have you? |
| 2. _____ ibo a spiritu tuo? | <u>Whither</u> shall I go from Thy Spirit? |
| 3. _____ est Deus eorum? | <u>Where</u> is their God? |
| 4. Amice, _____ huc intrasti non habens vestem nuptialem? | Friend, <u>how</u> comest thou in hither, not having on a wedding garment? |
| 5. _____ est veritas? | <u>What</u> is truth? |
| 6. _____ debes domino meo? | <u>How much</u> dost thou owe my master? |
| 7. _____ discipuli tui transgrediuntur traditionem seniorum? | <u>Why</u> do Thy disciples transgress the traditions of the ancients? |
| 8. _____ peccabit in me frater meus et dimittam ei? | <u>How often</u> must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? |
| 9. _____ , piger, dormies? | <u>How long</u> wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? |
| 10. Baptismus Joannis _____ erat? | The baptism of John, <u>whence</u> was it? |
| 11. Tu _____ es? | <u>Who</u> art thou? |
| 12. _____ imago est haec, et superscriptio? | <u>Whose</u> image is this, and inscription? |

Reading Practice

Quis est meus proximus?

Who is my neighbour?

Quis est iste, qui venit de Edom?

Who is this that cometh from Edom?

<i>Mulierem fortem <u>quis</u> inveniet?</i>	<u>Who</u> shall find a valiant woman?
<i><u>Cur</u>, Domine, irascitur furor tuus contra populum tuum?</i>	<u>Why</u> , O Lord, is Thy indignation kindled against Thy people?
<i>Dominus illuminatio mea, et salus mea : <u>quem</u> timebo?</i>	The Lord is my light and my salvation : <u>whom</u> shall I fear?
<i><u>Quomodo</u> fiet istud, quoniam virum non cognosco?</i>	<u>How</u> shall this be, since I know not man?
<i><u>Unde</u> hoc mihi, ut veniat Domini mei ad me?</i>	<u>Whence</u> is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?
<i><u>Unde</u> huic sapientia haec et virtutes?</i>	<u>Whence</u> (to Him) this wisdom and power?
<i><u>quando</u> haec erunt?</i>	<u>When</u> shall these things be?
<i><u>Usquequo</u>, Domine, clamabo, et non exaudies?</i>	<u>How long</u> , O Lord, shall I cry, and Thou wilt not hear?
<i><u>Ubi</u> sapiens? <u>ubi</u> scriba? <u>ubi</u> conquisitor hujus saeculi?</i>	<u>Where</u> is the wise? <u>where</u> is the scribe? <u>where</u> is the disputer of this world?
<i><u>Quare</u> tristis es, anima mea, et <u>quare</u> conturbas me?</i>	<u>Why</u> art thou sad, O my soul? and <u>why</u> dost thou disquiet me?

Note: You will have noted from 17. 5 that the same word **quid?** has two separate meanings : ‘what?’ and ‘why?’. The only way to distinguish between them in translation is to consider the context of the sentence. Try doing this with the sentences below *before* looking at the English version :

<i><u>Quid</u> timidi estis, modicae fidei?</i>	<u>Why</u> are you afraid, O you of little faith?
<i><u>Quid</u> faciam tibi, Ephraim?</i>	<u>What</u> shall I do to thee, Ephraim?
<i><u>Quid</u> ergo baptizas, si tu non es Christus?</i>	<u>Why</u> , then, dost thou baptise, if thou be not the Christ?
<i><u>Quid</u> existis videre...?</i>	<u>What</u> did you go out to see?
<i><u>Quid</u> retribuam Domino pro omnibus quae retribuit mihi?</i>	<u>What</u> shall I give to the Lord for all that He hath given me?
<i><u>Quid</u> iudicas fratrem tuum?</i>	<u>Why</u> dost thou judge thy brother?
<i>Mulier, <u>quid</u> ploras?</i>	Woman, <u>why</u> weepest thou?
<i><u>Quid</u> me tentatis, hypocritae?</i>	<u>Why</u> do you tempt me, ye hypocrites?

Vocabulary

<i>retribuo, -ere, -ui, -tributum (3) - to give</i>	<i>irascor, irasci - to be roused to anger</i>
<i>furor, -oris - anger, indignation</i>	<i>illuminatio, -ionis - light</i>
<i>conturbo, -are, -avi, -atum (1) - to cause anxiety</i>	<i>perversus, -a, -um - crooked, perverse</i>
<i>accuso, -are, -avi, -atum (1) - to accuse</i>	<i>observo, -are, -avi, -atum - to observe, mark</i>
<i>sustineo, -ere, -ui, -tentum (2) - to bear, support</i>	<i>emo, -ere, emi, emptum (3) - to buy</i>
<i>ploro, -are, -avi, -atum (1) - to weep</i>	<i>proximus, -i - neighbour</i>

Exercise 3

Translate the following :

1. *Quis ascendet in montem Domini? aut quis stabit in loco sancto ejus?*
2. *si autem et Satanus in seipsum divisus est, quomodo stabit regnum ejus?*
3. *Unde ememus panes?*
4. *O generatio incredula et perversa, quousque ero vobiscum : usquoque patiar vos?*
5. *Mulier, ubi sunt, qui te accusabant?*
6. *Si iniquitates observaveris, Domine, quis sustinebit?*
7. *sed quid dicit Scriptura?*
8. *ubi est fides vestra?*
9. *quo a facie tua fugiam?*
10. *Qualis est hic, quia venti et mare obediunt ei?*

Vocabulary

<i>infirmor, -ari</i> - to be weak	<i>uro, -ere, ussi, ustum</i> (3) - to burn
<i>littera, -ae</i> - letter of the alphabet	<i>disco, -ere, didici</i> - to learn
<i>scio, -ire, -ivi, -itum</i> (4) - to know	<i>signum, -i</i> - a sign
<i>esuriens</i> - hungry	<i>pasco, -ere, pavi, pastum</i> (3) - to feed
<i>sitiens</i> - thirsty	<i>hospes, hospitis</i> - stranger, foreigner
<i>colligo, -ere, -egi, -ectum</i> (3) - to gather together	<i>nudus, -a, -um</i> - naked
<i>cooperio, -ire, -ui, -ertum</i> (4) - to envelop, cover	<i>carcer, -eris</i> - prison, cell
<i>praedico, -are, -avi, atum</i> (1) - to preach	

Reading Practice

Quis infirmatur, et ego non infirmor? quis scandalizatur, et ego non uror?

Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is scandalised and I am not on fire?

Domine, quis est qui tradet te?

Lord, who is it that shall betray Thee?

Quomodo hic litteras scit, cum non didicerit?

How does this man know letters, having never learnt?

Quomodo potest homo peccator haec signa facere?

*Quid fecit tibi? quomodo aperuit tibi oculos?
Respondit eis : Dixi vobis jam, et audistis : quid
iterum vultis audire? Numquid et vos vultis
discipuli ejus fieri?*

*Tunc respondebunt ei justii, dicentes : Domine,
quando te vidimus esurientem, et pavimus te :
sitientem, et dedimus tibi potum? quando autem te
vidimus hospitem, et collegimus te : aut nudum, et
cooperuimus te? aut quando te vidimus infirmum :
aut in carcere, et venimus ad te?*

*Quomodo ergo invocabunt, in quem non
crediderunt? Aut quomodo credent ei, quem non
audiverunt? Quomodo autem audient sine
praedicante? Quomodo vero praedicabunt, nisi
mittantur?*

*Si patremfamilias Beelzebub vocaverunt, quanto
magis domesticos ejus?*

How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles?

What did He do to thee? How did He open thy eyes? He answered them : I have told you already, and you have heard : why would you hear it again? Will you also become His disciples?

Then shall the just answer Him, saying : Lord, when did we see Thee hungry and fed Thee : thirsty, and gave Thee drink? and when did we see Thee a stranger and took Thee in : or naked, and covered Thee? or when did we see Thee sick or in prison and came to Thee?

How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? Or how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, unless they be sent?

If they have called the good man of the house Beelzebub, how much more them of his household?